

I am registering a complaint of political electioneering against Sinclair Broadcasting, who recently has ordered all of its TV stations to air a film shamelessly titled "Stolen Honor" - already proven to be full of deceptive and misleading statements - that attacks the record of Senator John Kerry, one of two leading candidates for the highest elective office in our nation, and one that affects political reality all over the globe. The airing of this very troubling, discredited, partisan program on the public's airwaves is scheduled just a few days before the election. This fact is a national disgrace.

Such a film belongs in cinemas, as has been the case with other politically-engaged films in recent history, not in 25% of our nation's living rooms. Further, Sinclair violates equal-time requirements by refusing to air a film presenting the other side of the story, several of which exist, most notably "Going Upriver."

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies

control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard.

I sincerely hope  
that you will take  
serious meaningful  
action to punish  
Sinclair  
Broadcasting for  
their brazen  
flouting of our  
laws, our trust, and  
our traditions.  
Broadcasters should  
know that the public  
can not be trifled  
with, it is their  
duty to serve us.  
Thank you.